

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
8 January 2004 (08.01.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/002283 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **A47K 11/02**,
E03D 5/014

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/IB2003/002463

(22) International Filing Date: 25 June 2003 (25.06.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
2002/5133 26 June 2002 (26.06.2002) ZA

(71) Applicant and

(72) Inventor: LA TROBE, Brian, Essex [ZA/ZA]; 40 Alphen
Close, Wroxham Avenue, 2056 Paulshof (ZA).

(74) Agent: BOWMAN GILFILLAN INC. (JOHN & KER-
NICK); P.O. Box 3511, Halfway House, Midrand 1685
(ZA).

(81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU,
AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU,

CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH,
GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC,
LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW,
MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC,
SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG,
US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

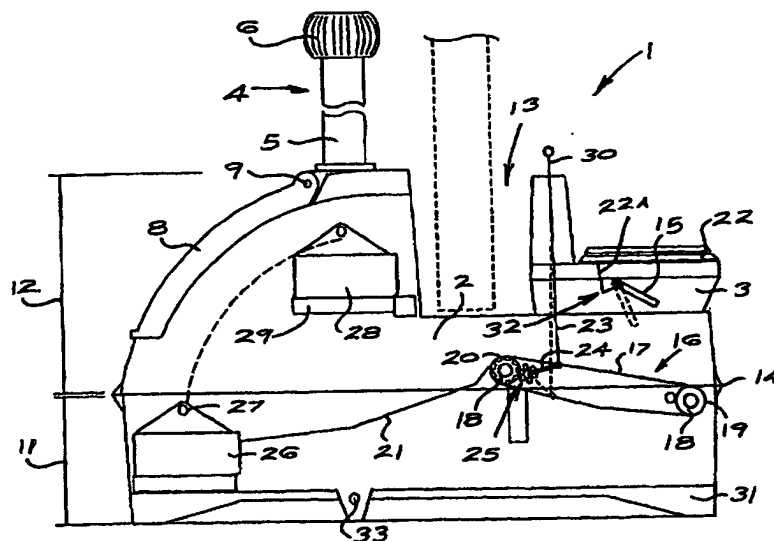
(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM,
KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW),
Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE,
ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO,
SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM,
GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the
claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of
amendments

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(84) Title: AN AEROBIC DIGESTION TOILET



(57) Abstract: An aerobic digestion toilet (1) including a chamber (2) and a toilet bowl (3) above the chamber, said chamber having an outlet vent (4) and means for generating convection flow through the chamber from adjacent the floor thereof through the outlet vent from the chamber, whereby a conveyor (16) is mounted within the chamber and is located below the toilet bowl and configured to receive material falling from the toilet bowl and move it upwardly at an incline to discharge onto a downwardly inclined tray (21) for subsequent disposal.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/IB 03/02463

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 A47K11/02 E03D5/014

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 A47K E03D C05F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
P, X	US 2002/144339 A1 (COLOMBOT PIERRE) 10 October 2002 (2002-10-10)	1, 4-6, 10
A	page 1, paragraph 22 -page 2, paragraph 39; figures 1, 2	3
X	US 5 276 924 A (HACHIMA HIROKI) 11 January 1994 (1994-01-11)	1, 4, 9, 10
A	column 3, line 48 -column 8, line 27; figures 1, 8	2, 3
X	FR 2 755 362 A (ECOSPHERE TECHNOLOGIES) 7 May 1998 (1998-05-07)	1, 4, 6, 10
A	page 3, line 21 -page 8, line 13; figures	5, 7
X	US 6 081 940 A (NIEN CHIN-FU) 4 July 2000 (2000-07-04)	1, 4, 10
	column 1, line 56 -column 2, line 61; figure 1	
	--- -/--	

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *Z* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

7 November 2003

Date of mailing of the international search report

25/11/2003

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Fajarnés Jessen, A

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Intern d Application No
PCT/IB 03/02463

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4 254 515 A (KIYAMA TORAO ET AL) 10 March 1981 (1981-03-10) column 2, line 40 -column 8, line 25; figures 1-3 ---	1,4,10
X	US 4 999 857 A (MOHRMAN JOHN H) 19 March 1991 (1991-03-19) column 2, line 49 -column 4, line 4; figure 1 -----	1,4,10

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.2

Claims Nos.: 11

Claim 11 does not contain any clear technical features defining a subject-matter but only refer to drawings. Thus a reasonable search concerning this claim is not possible.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/IB 03/02463

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☒ Claims Nos.: 11
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this International application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
information on patent family members

International Application No
PCT/IB 03/02463

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
US 2002144339	A1	10-10-2002	FR	2823201 A1	11-10-2002
			AU	3144002 A	10-10-2002
			CA	2380679 A1	06-10-2002
			DE	10215133 A1	24-10-2002
US 5276924	A	11-01-1994	JP	4212318 A	03-08-1992
			JP	3184837 B2	09-07-2001
			JP	5245063 A	24-09-1993
			DE	4127808 A1	27-02-1992
			IL	99226 A	28-11-1994
FR 2755362	A	07-05-1998	FR	2755362 A1	07-05-1998
US 6081940	A	04-07-2000	NONE		
US 4254515	A	10-03-1981	JP	55077497 U	28-05-1980
			AU	4981679 A	29-05-1980
			CA	1099056 A1	14-04-1981
			FR	2442308 A1	20-06-1980
			SE	7905985 A	22-05-1980
US 4999857	A	19-03-1991	NONE		